

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 OMB-01 IO-13 /083 W
-----103683 130820Z /20
R 111300Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9404
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8519

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, NI, SHUM
SUBJECT: THE RETURN OF THE CA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. ACCORDING TO A FRONTPAGE STORY IN THE JULY 9 SUNDAY TIMES, THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WILL PROBABLY BE RECONVENED ON JULY 26 FOR A FINAL "VALEDICTORY, HAND-SHAKING SESSION." THE REPORT QUOTES "RELIABLE SOURCES" TO THE EFFECT THAT MCAS WILL SOON RECEIVE OFFICIAL INVITATIONS ALONG WITH CLEAN COPIES OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION WHICH ARE NOW BEING PREPARED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER. SUNDAY TIMES NOTES THAT CHAIRMAN UDOMA IS STILL IN LONDON FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT BUT WILL RETURN SOON.

2. SUNDAY TIMES STORY ALSO SPECULATES THAT A JULY 26 CONCLUSION FOR THE CA WOULD DELAY THE LIFTING OF THE BAN ON POLITICS UNTIL MID-AUGUST, IF NOT UNTIL THE OCTOBER 1 TARGET DATE WHICH HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY SET BY THE FMG. END UNCLASSIFIED.
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3. COMMENT: SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE HAS A CERTAIN VERISIMILITUDE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SMC WILL BE CONSIDERING AGENDA ITEMS AT ITS NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 12 WHICH ARE IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR GARBA TO RETURN FROM THE OAU MEETING IN KHARTOUM JUST TO ATTEND THE SESSION. THE CONNECTED PROBLEMS OF HOW TO CONCLUDE THE CA

AND WHEN TO LIFT THE BAN MAY BE TOPICS AT THAT MEETING. HOWEVER, THE FMG MUST BE WELL AWARE THAT THE FROMAL CONCLUSION OF THE CA MAY BE A DIFFICULT EVENT TO STAGE-MANAGE. CONSIDERING THE ABRUPT JUNE 5 ADJOURNMENT AND THE EVENTS WHICH LED TO IT, THE FMG SHOULD HAVE GOOD REASON TO FEAR THAT ANOTHER FORMAL CA SESSION BRINGING INTO CONTACT UDOMA'S IRASCIBLE PERSONALITY AND THE MCAS' VARIOUS DISENCHANTMENRS COULD RESULT NOT IN A CEREMONIAL CONCLUSION FOR THE CA BUT IN YET ANOTHER DEBACLE.

EASUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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